

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 032661
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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032661

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, EINV, ASEAN

SUBJECT: US/ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT

QUOTE

P R 3116467 DEC 74

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

US MISSION OECD PARIS

US MISSION GENEVA

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 283832

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN

SUBJECT: US/ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 176339

1. APPRECIATE AMBASSADORS' RESPONSES TO REFTTEL WHICH SUGGESTED US-ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS. OTHER INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES, I.E. TREASURY, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE, STR, HAVE NOW ALSO APPROVED PROPOSED TALKS, IN LIGHT RECOMMENDATIONS OF AMBASSADORS, WE POSTPONED APPROACH UNTIL AFTER ENACTMENT OF US TRADE BILL. WITH PASSAGE OF TRADE ACT OF 1974 (DECEMBER 20) WE FEEL TIME NOW APPROPRIATE TO EXPLORE ASEAN RECEPTIVITY TO SUGGESTED TALKS.

2. THEREFORE, I SUGGEST THAT YOU APPROACH FOREIGN MINISTER OR APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL OF ASEAN COUNTRY SECRETARIAT AND INDICATE THAT IF ASEAN IS INTERESTED IN CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN NEAR FUTURE, US WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR INVITATION. WE VIEW MEETING AS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN PROVISIONS OF TRADE ACT, INCLUDING MTN NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY AND GSP PROVISIONS, AND TO HEAR ASEAN'S VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS. WE WOULD PLAN, HOWEVER, TO EXPAND CONSULTATIONS TO COVER OTHER ECONOMIC QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. WE HAVE IN MIND AGENDA TOPICS SUCH AS US ECONOMIC TRENDS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO EFFECTS ON WORLD ECONOMY AND ASEAN; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN ASEAN; PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN ASEAN; AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MAJOR ECONOMIC ISSUES ARISING IN OTHER FORA WHICH MIGHT BE OF TOPICAL INTEREST AT TIME OF MEETING. NATURALLY AGENDA WOULD BE MUTUALLY AGREED AND WE WOULD BE GUIDED BY ASEAN WISHES (WE WOULD WISH TO AVOID BILATERAL AID ISSUES AS AGENDA TOPIC).
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3. WE WOULD HOPE THAT AFTER YOUR APPROACHES, ASEAN MEMBERS WOULD CONSULT TOGETHER AND ISSUE INVITATION. WE ASSUME MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN ASEAN CAPITAL AT TIME CONVENIENT TO ITS MEMBERS; US WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET BY MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY OR ANY TIME AFTER. FYI: OUR PROPOSAL IS FOR A SINGLE MEETING. WHILE WE MAY EVENTUALLY CONCLUDE THAT PERIODIC MEETINGS WOULD BE WORTHWHILE, WE THINK CONSIDERATION OF THIS POSSIBILITY SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER WE HAVE EVALUATED RESULTS OF INITIAL MEETING. END FYI.

4. IF ASKED ABOUT INVITATION TO NON-MEMBERS AS OBSERVERS, YOU COULD INDICATE THAT THIS WOULD BE AT DISCRETION OF ASEAN. (FYI: IN SUCH A CASE WE HOPE MEETING WOULD BE IN A CAPITAL WHERE GVN IS WELCOME AND ISSUE OF PRG WOULD NOT ARISE.)

5. ASSUMING ASEAN WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT COMPARABLE

LEVEL, US DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY BE HEADED BY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, WITH DELEGATION MEMBERS FROM COMMERCE, TREASURY, STR, AGRICULTURE.

6. APPROACH SHOULD BE LOW-KEY; WE DO NOT WISH TO GIVE IMPRESSION US IS PRESSING FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH ASEAN -- RATHER, WE ARE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO ASEAN INITIATIVE. ADDITIONALLY, IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT WHAT WE ENVISAGE IS CONSULTATIONS, NOT NEGOTIATIONS.

7. FOR MANILA: PLEASE EXPLAIN THAT TALKS VIEWED AS PURELY CONSULTATIVE AND NOT DESIGNED TO REPLACE IN ANY WAY OUR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

8. WE EXPECT TO CALL IN ASEAN AMBASSADORS HERE TO MAKE SIMILAR APPROACH IN NEAR FUTURE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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